

June 13, 2012

**Honorable Dow Constantine
King County Executive
Chinook Building
401 5th Ave. Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104**

**Honorable Mike McGinn, Mayor
City of Seattle
600 4th Avenue – 7th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104**

Dear Executive Constantine and Mayor McGinn:

As you know, I have spoken with a number of potential investment partners in the greater Seattle community who share my commitment to developing a first-class sports and entertainment facility and bringing an NBA franchise back to Seattle. While it was my intention to wait until the local investor group was fully assembled before making any announcement, given the intense community interest and requests from the city and county councils, three members of my investment group have agreed to come forward at this time.

I am pleased to inform you that prominent business and community leaders, Steve Ballmer, Peter Nordstrom and Erik Nordstrom have agreed to join the arena investment group.

These three gentlemen, like me, are committed to operating the arena and NBA franchise in a way that represents and upholds the values of our community. They appreciate the role the Sonics played in this community for more than 40 years and see this project as an opportunity to bring that civic asset back to our community. They also understand the unique ability of professional basketball to positively affect urban youth. Their participation in the ownership group brings added assurances the business will always be backed by strong local hands and reinforces my commitment that the team will never again leave Seattle.

The local roots of this group run deep and each individual is invested in creating a lasting positive impact on the community. I am very pleased that these local leaders have joined in the effort to bring professional basketball back to Seattle and I look forward to having them as my partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hansen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Hansen

cc: City Council member
County Council members